

REMARKS

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Appl. Pub. No. 2003/0184669 (Nishioka).

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nishioka in view of JP 2002-228816 (Musashi).

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,805 (Ogino) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,816 (Hagimori).

Claims 3 and 4 have been objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any independent claims.

Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 8-11 have been newly added.

Claims 1-2, 4-11 are now pending.

Allowable subject matter

The Office Action states that claims 3 and 4 have been objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any independent claims.

In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Therefore, independent claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 4-7, which depend from independent claim 1, incorporate all of the limitations of now allowable independent claim 1 and are, therefore, also now allowable for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 8 has been newly added includes the limitations of allowable claim 4 and original base claim 1. Because new independent claim 8 incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 4, claim 8 is allowable.

Claims Rejections

All claim rejections are now moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

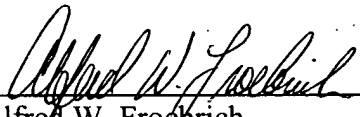
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By 
Alfred W. Frogrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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